

What is claimed is:

1. A process for purifying zoledronic acid comprising
 - (a) raising the pH of an aqueous suspension of crude zoledronic acid until a clear solution is obtained;
 - (b) lowering the pH of the solution obtained in (a) until zoledronic acid precipitates out of solution; and
 - (c) isolating the zoledronic acid that has precipitated from the solution in (b).
2. The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension in (a) is formed by mixing 10-26 volumes of water per grams of zoledronic acid.
3. The process of claim 2, wherein the suspension in (a) is formed by mixing 10-15 volumes of water per grams of zoledronic acid.
4. The process of claim 1, wherein the mixing is done below reflux temperature.
5. The process of claim 4, wherein the mixing is done at room temperature.
6. The process of claim 1; wherein the pH of the suspension in (a) is raised to between about 9 to about 12.
7. The process of claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension in (a) is raised by the addition of a base.
8. The process of claim 7, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.
9. The process of claim 1, wherein the pH of the solution in (b) is lowered to less than about 2.
10. The process of claim 9, wherein the pH of the solution in (b) is lowered to between about 1 to about 1.5.
11. The process of claim 1, which is an industrial scale process.
12. In a process for preparing zoledronic acid, the steps of:
 - (a) raising the pH of an aqueous suspension of crude zoledronic acid until a clear solution is obtained;
 - (b) lowering the pH of the solution obtained in (a) until zoledronic acid precipitates out of solution; and
 - (c) isolating the zoledronic acid that has precipitated from the solution in (b).